



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, September 28, 2025 | Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome Home!

Welcome to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete a visitor's form. Our website provides up to date information about our vibrant church: www.christchurchcolumbia.org.

This bulletin contains all you need to join us in worship, everyone is welcome to receive communion at God's table, and the clergy are happy to speak with you at any time.

THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE |

OPENING HYMN 184 | Christ the Lord Is Risen Again

Christus ist erstanden



1 Christ the Lord is risen a - gain! Christ has bro - ken ev - ery chain!
2 He who gave for us his life, who for us en - dured the strife,
3 He who bore all pain and loss com - fort - less up - on the cross



Now through all the world it rings that the Lamb is King of kings.
takes our sin and guilt a - way that with an - gels we may say:
is ex - alt - ed now to save, wrest - ing vic - tory from the grave.

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia!



al - le - lu - ia! Christ, our Pas - chal Lamb in - deed,



Christ, to - day your peo - ple feed. Al - le - lu - ia!

OPENING ACCLAMATION |

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY |

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
People: Amen

GLORIA S 280 |

Robert Powell

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY|

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

Reader: A reading from Jeremiah.

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him.

Jeremiah said, The word of the Lord came to me: Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours." Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the Lord, and said to me, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself." Then I knew that this was the word of the Lord.

And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions, and the open copy; and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The following psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

THE PSALM

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 | *Qui habitat*



He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, *
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.

He shall say to the Lord,
"You are my refuge and my stronghold, *
my God in whom I put my trust."

He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter *
and from the deadly pestilence.

He shall cover you with his pinions,
and you shall find refuge under his wings; *
his faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.

Antiphon

You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, *
nor of the arrow that flies by day;

Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, *
nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.

Because he is bound to me in love,
therefore will I deliver him; *
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; *
I am with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.

With long life will I satisfy him, *
and show him my salvation.

Antiphon

THE EPISTLE | 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Reader: *A reading from 1st Timothy.*

There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time-- he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

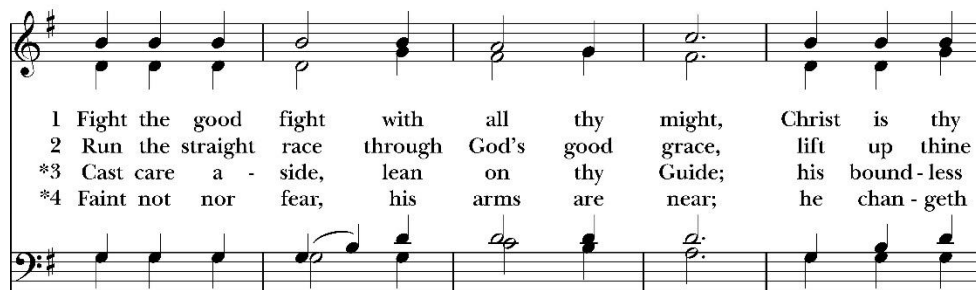
Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

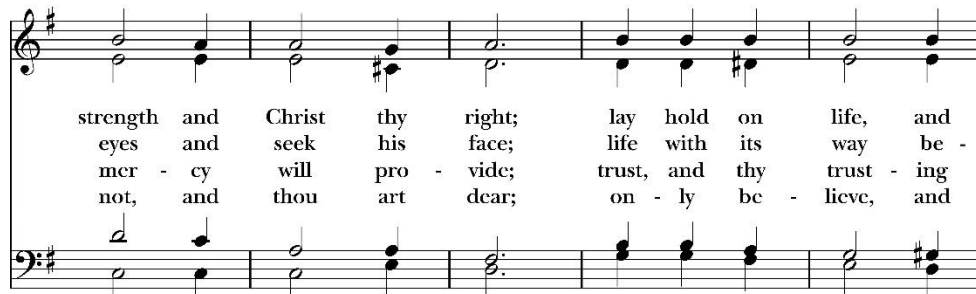
The people stand as able.

SEQUENCE HYMN 552 | Fight the Good Fight

Pentecost



1 Fight the good fight with all thy might, Christ is thy
2 Run the straight race through God's good grace, lift up thine
*3 Cast care a - side, lean on thy Guide; his bound - less
*4 Faint not nor fear, his arms are near; he chan - geth



strength and Christ thy right; lay hold on life, and
eyes and seek his face; life with its way be -
mer - cy will pro - vide; trust, and thy trust - ing
not, and thou art dear; on - ly be - lieve, and



it shall be thy joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
fore us lies, Christ is the path and Christ the prize.
soul shall prove Christ is its life and Christ its love.
thou shalt see that Christ is all in all to thee.

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house-- for I have five brothers-- that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HYMN | Lead Me, Lord Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy right-eousness,

Make Thy way plain be-fore Thy face.

Optional Ending

For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord on-ly, that

mak-est me dwell in safe-ty.

The people may be seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON | Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The people stand as able.

THE NICENE CREED |

All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE |

Lord, You continually guide Your people through very difficult times where Your grace abounds. Generosity and provision are ever present in Your Love. We each encounter times of doubt in our own personal wilderness. Let us place our faith and trust in You.

Search for the Lord and His Strength

The worldwide Church welcomes all as workers in God's vineyard: the new, the established, the unpolished, the overzealous, the introverted, the doubtful, the givers, the needy, the prepared and the unprepared. Jesus modeled inclusiveness in an age of very separate cultures. None were turned away. We hope and pray for peace in our world, with an end to violent conflicts and a long-desired time of international cooperation and mutual understanding. We encourage all visitors and newcomers to be a part of our Christ Church community in Columbia. We would love to share our worship, praise and opportunities to minister to others. We are enriched by your presence.

Lord, we praise you for your faithfulness

In the Anglican Communion, we pray today for Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan. In the Diocese of Maryland, we ask special blessings for our sister Parishes. We ask for the Lord's guidance for our spiritual leaders: the Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard & Marcia, and Seminarian, Yehinuel. We also ask that our elected leaders at all governmental levels gain insight and strength to address the challenges facing our nation and the world.

Let our hearts rejoice in the Lord

We pray for those who are suffering in body, mind or spirit, that they may be restored to health and wholeness, especially Sheila, Pamela, Isaac, Ernest, Mariela, Pamela, Abel, Rachan, Sherry, Erica, Emmy & Danielle. We give thanks for the love and care of family and friends, who bring happiness to those in need. We pray for those who have entered the Kingdom of Heaven, especially those you now name. May the light of God shine forever in their hearts. May the presence of Christ comfort those who mourn. **Glory in His Holy Name**

We give thanks for the occasions of joy in our Church family. Today we celebrate the birthdays of Dominic, Tele, Ian, Teddy, George, Alicia, Michael, Harrington, Gavin & Jesse, the wedding anniversary of Beth & William Johnson, and the baptismal anniversaries of Brian & Judith. We are blessed with these gifts of God throughout our lives.

Our Lord is gracious and full of compassion

Let us stand firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith. **-AMEN**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION |

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

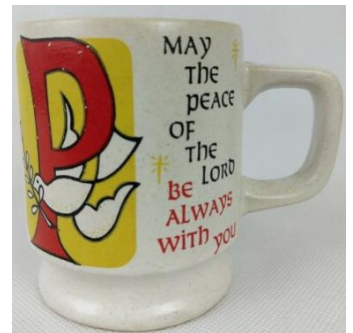
THE PEACE |

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord and then be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS |



OFFERTORY ANTHEM | How Can I Keep from Singing?

arr. John Abdenour

Please scan to give.



DOXOLOGY HYMN 380 (v. 1) |

Old 100th

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**



THE HOLY COMMUNION



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

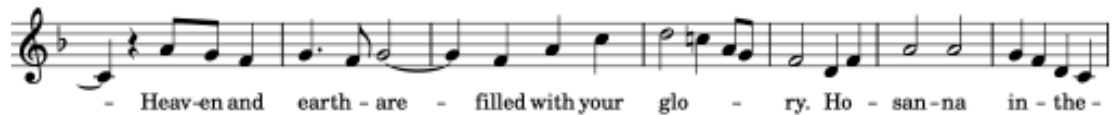
People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Celebrant: After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

All: *Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:*
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

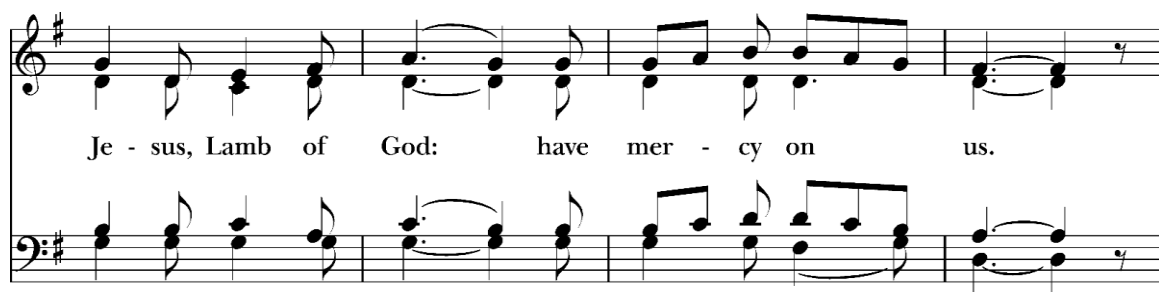
All: All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER |

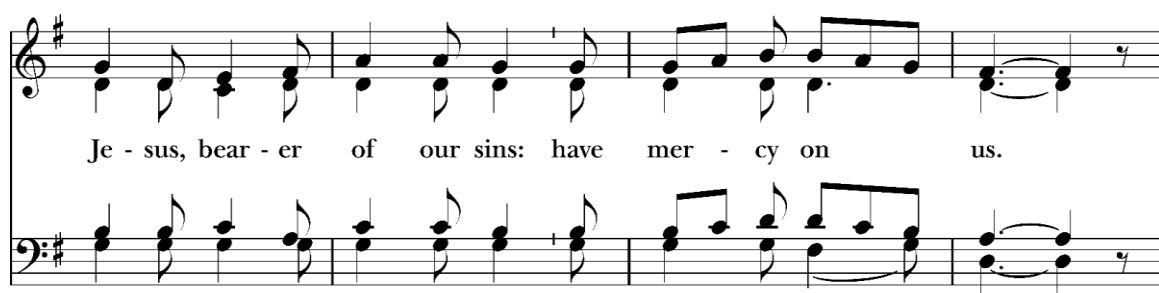
Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD |

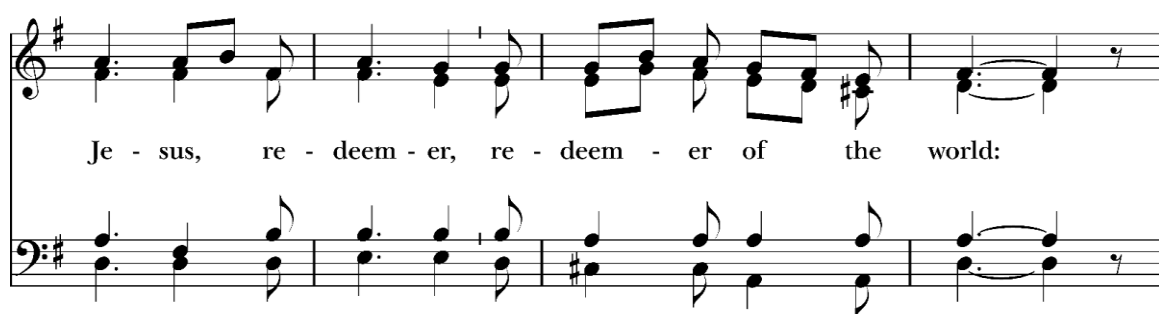
Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**



Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:



give us your peace, give us your peace.



*The Gifts of God
for the People of God*



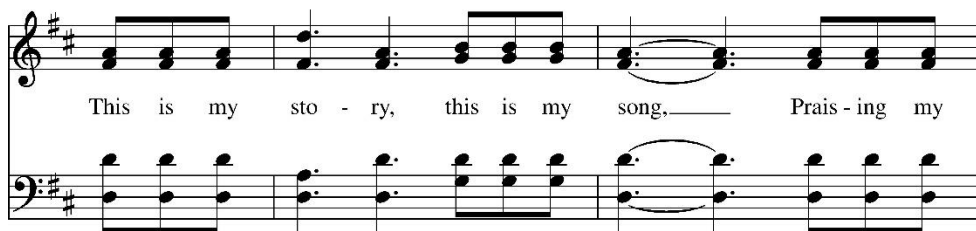
1. Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! — O what a
 2. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, — Vi - sions of
 3. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, — I in my



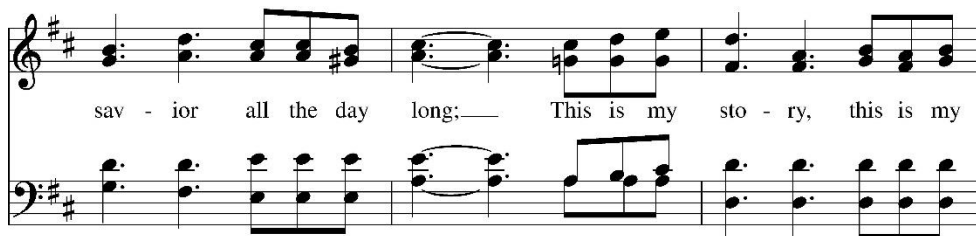
1. fore-taste of glo - ry di - vine! — Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of
 2. rap - ture now burst on my sight; — An - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a -
 3. sav - ior am hap - py and blest; — Watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -



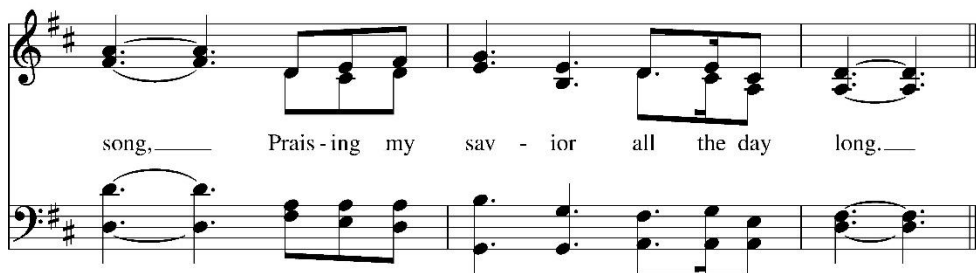
1. God, — Born of His spir - it, washed in His blood. —
 2. bove — Ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love. —
 3. bove, — Filled with His good - ness, lost in His love. —



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, — Prais - ing my



sav - ior all the day long; — This is my sto - ry, this is my



song, — Prais - ing my sav - ior all the day long, —

POST COMMUNION PRAYER |

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS' PRAYER | 8 & 10:30 a.m. service

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People: We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.

THE BLESSING |

The Celebrant offers a blessing, and the People respond Amen.

CLOSING HYMN VF 133 | Take My Life

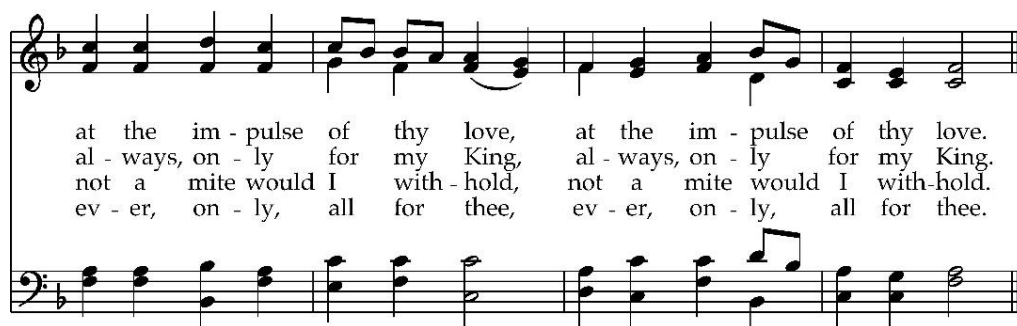
Hendon



1 Take my life and let it be con - se - cra - ted,
2 Take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti -
3 Take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sa -
4 Take my love, my God, I pour at thy feet its



Lord, to thee; take my hands and let them move
ful for thee; take my voice and let me sing
ges from thee; take my sil - ver and my gold,
treas - ure store; take my - self and I will be



at the im - pulse of thy love, at the im - pulse of thy love.
al - ways, on - ly for my King, al - ways, on - ly for my King.
not a mite would I with - hold, not a mite would I with - hold.
ev - er, on - ly, all for thee, ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

THE DISMISSAL |

The Celebrant dismisses the people who respond.
Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

POSTLUDE |

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Assisting in Worship Today

8:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Dione Mahoney

Chaliciist: Dione Mahoney

Ushers: Kayode Fatodu, Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams,
Cherry Williams, Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah

10:30 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Sonni Aribiah

Chaliciist: Sonni Aribiah, Ivy Amponsah

Acolytes: Wynstan Eguakun, James Mercer, Lesley Lokko

Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams,
Cherry Williams, Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah

Altar Guild

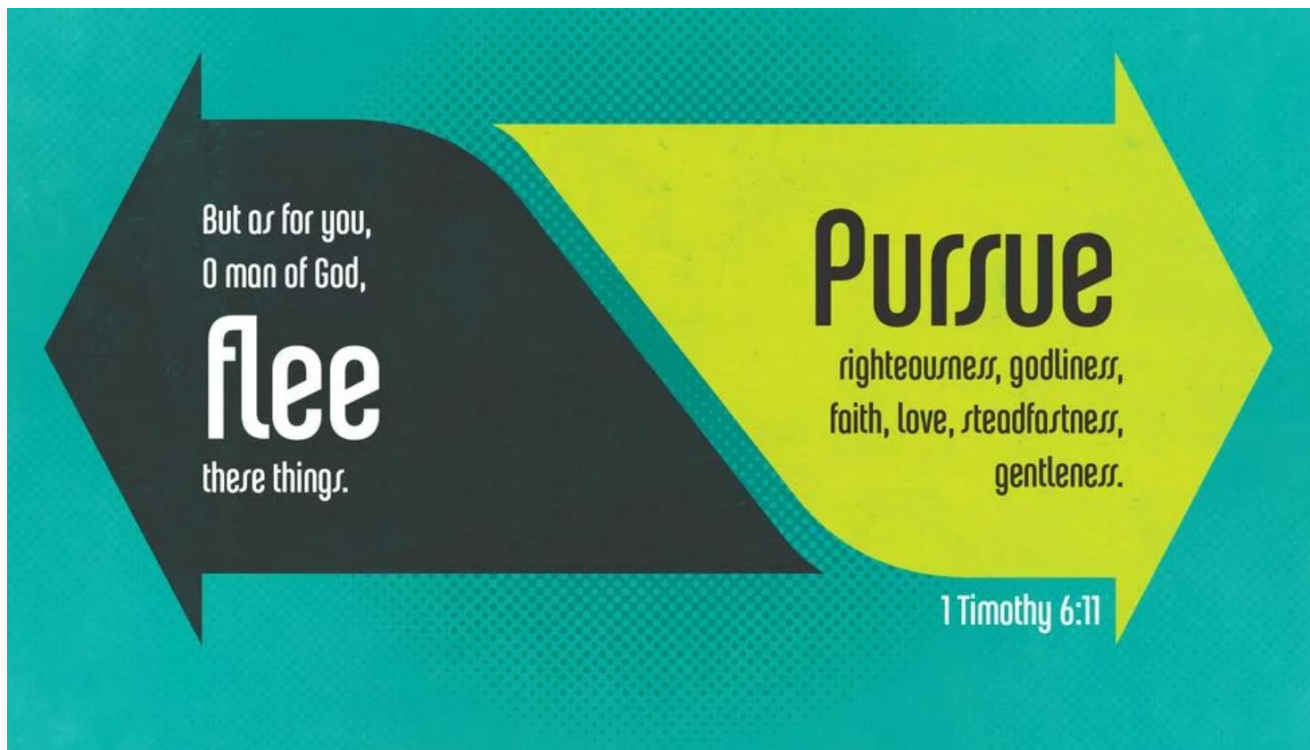
Jan DeBoissiere, Virginia Jarrett, Cara Ocampo, Maria Rios

Tellers

Kenny Okeke

Vestry Table

Alfred Titus-Glover



PARISH CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 4, 2025

Sunday, September 28

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:45 am– 9:30 am	Coffee Hour
9:00 am– 9:30 am	Children & Family Worship – New Brick, upper level
9:30 am– 10:30 am	Sunday School
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick
2:00 – 4:00 pm	Confirmation Class – Zoom

Monday, September 29

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:30 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, lower level
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom

Tuesday, September 30

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am– 4:00 pm	HC Homeschool
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Summer Yoga Camp – Sanctuary
6:30 – 8:30 pm	Vestry Meeting – New Brick, lower level

Wednesday, October 1

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:00 pm	First Wednesday Fellowship – New Brick, lower level

Thursday, October 2

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am– 4:00 pm	HC Homeschool
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Summer Yoga Camp – New Brick, lower level
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, October 3

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:30 – 9:00 pm	CEC Book Club

Saturday, October 4

9:00 – 3:00 pm	Iglesia Adventista Del Septimo Dia Fidelidad – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Calendar Planning Meeting – New Brick, upper level
2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild prep – Old Brick
5:00 – 7:00 pm	Blessing of the Pets – New Brick, lower level

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an announcement to share with the church,
Please send to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR ALL OF THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & LINKS

First Wednesday Fellowship is Back! - October 1

After a well-deserved break for the summer, Christ Church's popular First Wednesday fellowship series picks up again in October. Come and join us as we take advantage of a wonderful opportunity to share a meal with our fellow parishioners, meet new ones, and enjoy a fun activity or two. It's the perfect way to connect and spend a few hours with friends, both old and new - and have someone else do most of the cooking!

The first FWF of this season, on Wednesday, October 1, will feature a Homecoming theme, welcoming back the program year. The church will provide pizza for dinner, and you can bring a side dish or dessert to share. We'll then take a brief prayer walk on the beautiful pathways around the campus following dinner. **Donations** to defray the cost of pizza are always appreciated (write "FWF" in the memo line), but the most important part is having you there, so we hope to see you!

Ministry Calendar Meeting - October 4

It's time for Christ Church's next calendar planning meeting, where we'll cover events scheduled for the remainder of the 2025-2026 program year. We'd like to ask one representative from each ministry to attend, and we encourage everyone to attend in person. However, a Zoom link will be sent from the office for those who cannot. Breakfast will be served to those meeting on-site. Gather with us in the New Brick Narthex or on Zoom on Saturday, October 4, at 10:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please email the **Church Office**.

Blessing of the Animals - October 4 & 5

October 4th, our church celebrates the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology and animals, and during this first weekend in October, we will have The Blessing of the Animals - and we mean ALL animals!

On Saturday, October 4th at 5 p.m. we invite you to gather in front of Old Brick with your beloved pets - dogs, cats, birds, fish, reptiles, and all other furry, scaly, or slinky creatures - or a picture of your pet, if you prefer. We will read from the story of creation and offer individual blessings for each of our beautiful pets.

Then at the 9 a.m. Family Worship on Sunday morning, October 5th, we will have The Blessing of the Plushies, so this is your chance to bring your favorite stuffed friend with you to church they can be blessed, too!

Taizé Vespers: STEWARDSHIP – October 5

Taizé Vespers is a liturgy of Evening Prayer that combines scripture readings, prayer, silent meditation, and rich music. On the first Sunday evening of each month, Christ Church offers this truly beautiful service of contemplative prayer and music in the tradition of the Taizé community of France. This community promotes peace and justice through prayer and meditation.

Our Taizé Vespers service reflects the Taizé style, emphasizing attention to silence, holy words, prayer, and singing, and offers an opportunity to meditate and reflect on God's love and presence in one's life, to offer prayer for oneself and others, and to share in a supportive community of fellow pilgrims - in our case, your friends and neighbors - on the journey. Gather with us at 6 p.m. in New Brick on October 5th for this uniquely powerful worship.

Annual Report Submissions Due October 10

At each year's Annual Meeting, we publish and distribute the Christ Church Annual Report, which outlines the parish's activities and ministries of the past year, and shares plans for the coming one. In order to do this, we ask that every leader or representative please write a few sentences or paragraphs about your ministry/group's activities and achievements, and send them to Chris at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org so he can include them. If you have a special photo or photos you'd like us to include, send those, too. The deadline for submissions is Sunday, October 10th. Thank you.

Come and See "Larissa and Friends" Recital - Saturday, October 11

We are proud to present our Music Director, Larissa Sanders, in her fall Christ Church recital - now an annual tradition. Larissa and her selection of incredibly talented musicians and vocalists will present a program of beautiful music spanning several centuries and cultures. This performance is a free-will offering, and light refreshments will be served at a reception following the performance, so come to the New Brick Sanctuary on Saturday, October 11 at 5:00 p.m. for a concert that's sure to entertain everyone. Save the date, and support excellent music performed by talented musicians.

MOCC Breakfast - October 18

Join us for french toast and fellowship! The MOCC breakfast is a monthly event, and this month it will take place on October 18th at Silver Diner, located at 8250 Gateway Overlook Drive in Columbia. We'll meet at 9:30 a.m., and all ages are welcome. See you there!

Christ Church's Annual Meeting and Vestry Elections - October 19

We will host our Annual Meeting and Vestry Elections on Sunday, October 19, and on this day, we have only one service at 10:00 a.m. in New Brick, with a potluck lunch and Annual Meeting and Vestry Elections to follow. As has been our practice, we invite parishioners to donate meals for our communal brunch, so stay tuned for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Please join us on this day, as we review our past year's ministries and activities while making plans for our leadership in the coming year. We will also learn about our future direction as a parish, so this is certainly one of the most important gatherings of the year. You can only vote if you attend, so please don't miss it.

The nominees this year are (in alphabetical order): Denisa Abdallah, Katie Adams, Jim Berkson, David James, and Denholm Kendall. You can view a photo and read a brief message on our website between today and October 19th, so visit www.christchurchcolumbia.org/2025-vestry-candidates for those.

There Are Only a Few Spaces Still Available for Financial Peace University

As a community of faith, one of the gifts we can offer one another is how to manage our resources best. For those looking for better perspectives on how to improve their financial well-being, the Financial Peace University series can help. This multi-week seminar aims to help parishioners manage their finances and be better stewards of what they earn. It's a life-changing program, but it is limited to ten people/families, ensuring a direct connection with each participant. The class will meet on Monday evenings, and the cost is \$100 per person/family. If you need more information, please speak with Fr. Manny at church or email him at revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Centering Prayer - Monday Evenings

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God, a gathering that takes place every Monday. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. We are a hybrid gathering, so be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings. You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church, or by emailing centering@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Christ Church Choirs - Thursday Evenings

Get ready, all you singers and music lovers! The choir has resumed rehearsals in New Brick on Thursday evenings - Handbell Choir at 6:45 and Adult Choir at 7:30 - and all adults are welcome to join us. Whether you read music or not, have previous

experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit full-time or not, there's a place for you to give it a shot in our handbell &/or vocal choirs. If you're interested, please speak with Larissa at church on Sundays or email her at music@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Find a Ministry that's Right for You

We can always use some more people to keep Christ Church the well-run parish that it is. You can be a Teller, Acolyte, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, or choose to assist the Christ Church Altar Guild, Inreach, or Buildings and Grounds ministries - and many others! None of these requires weekly assistance - both only require a short amount of time every few weeks or so, but the impact you have on the entire parish is significant. For those interested in the Altar Guild, please email altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org, or inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org for Inreach (or [visit their website page](#)), and if you're interested in assisting as a Teller, LEV, or Acolyte, please call the Church Office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Walk or Give to Support 'Brady Johnson's Team' in the Howard County Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday, Sept. 27 at Centennial Park

You can help raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support, and research by participating in the local [Walk to End Alzheimer's](#) on Saturday, Sept. 27. Parishioner Barbara Scott Johnson asks your support for Brady Johnson's Team (ID#988430) in memory of her late husband during what will be her eighth walk for the [Alzheimer's Association](#). She is being helped by her daughter-in-law, Amanda Crump Butler.

"Thanks again for your support and the help you have given us in continuing to mark Brady's legacy and journey with Alzheimer's, and the quest in finding a cure," they say in asking for participation or monetary support. [Barbara's page is here, where you can read her message, donate to her team, or even join her team on the walk!](#) You can also donate by mailing a check to Alzheimer's Association, 502 Washington Ave., Suite 300, Towson, MD 21203. Please mark on the ATTN line: Howard County Walk Team 988430.

Christ Church Helps Fund a Physical Therapist at CCD-Thailand

To help children with disabilities live more fulfilling lives, Christ Church has long supported [CCD-Thailand](#). The non-profit organization, Christian Care Foundation for Children with Disabilities, relies on a community-based model that aims to reduce institutionalization. Recently, the Outreach Commission approved a donation of \$2,500 to CCD to be used toward the salary of a physical therapist.

In an email on Aug. 28, CCD Founder and Executive Director Wasan Saenwian expressed gratitude: "I would like to thank Christ Church very much." He said funds would be used toward a physical therapist's salary at CCD's Rainbow Rehabilitation Centre. Rainbow is the largest of several settings in which CCD serves more than a hundred children and disabled young people. One is an early childhood development center called New Hope. Another is a group home that provides independent living for up to 10 young men, who cook together and perform assigned chores. Parishioners can find facts about CCD in the organization's [2024 annual report](#) or learn more in CCD's [portion of the Outreach menu](#) on the church website.

Saenwian regularly communicates with Christ Church through Outreach member Michon Semon, who has personal connections with CCD from her work for the organization in Thailand and elsewhere. He and other leaders share updates and images of physical therapists at work. They enable children and young people to improve mobility. Funds are derived from parishioner donations to Outreach and the Vestry-approved budget. Thank you so much for the youth and their families in Thailand whose lives are brighter because of your generosity. This aligns with the mission of the Outreach Commission to support organizations – local, national, and international – that enhance the lives of people in need.

**PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE FOR ALL OF THIS WEEK'S
OUTREACH, YOUTH, AND OTHER PARISH NEWS**
including website and email links, and Zoom meeting details





It's time to prepare your Auction donations!
Notifications are due by Friday, October 10.

SMALL ITEMS! BIG ITEMS! VACATIONS! GIFT BASKETS! SERVICES!
ALL ITEMS ARE APPRECIATED!

Tickets & Passes

- Sports tickets
- Theatre tickets
- Concert tickets
- Golf rounds
- Restaurant gift certificate
- Lotto tickets
- Ski passes
- Water park passes

Travel

- Airline tickets
- Vacations
- Vacation house/condo stay
- Motor home rental
- Golf vacation
- Fishing trips
- Hunting trip
- Bicycle tour
- Camping tour
- Casino stay & play

Themed Baskets

- Spa basket
- Gardener's basket
- Italian cuisine basket
- Beer samplers
- Dog owner's basket
- Chocoholic basket
- Grillers basket
- Wine basket
- Camper's basket
- Instant date night
- Car care bundle

Around the House

- Bicycle
- Yard tools
- Camera
- Rugs
- Blankets and quilts
- Ice cream maker
- Television

Services

- Carpentry services
- Pet grooming services
- Consulting services
- Decorating services
- Car detailing
- Landscaping
- Cleaning
- Catered meal by private chef
- Photo-shoot
- Super Bowl party

Lessons

- Music lessons
- Dance lessons
- Cooking lessons
- Fitness lessons
- Art lessons
- Language lessons
- Acting lessons
- Golf lessons
- Crafts lessons

It's Auction Donation Time!

Buonasera! - the 2025 Christ Church Auction is on Saturday, November 1st, and, as there's no online bidding this year, this one-night event is the place to be! It will be an evening of incredible fun as we are transported to *bella Italia* and enjoy wine, music, appetizers, and lots and lots of live and silent auction action. And with on-site childcare available this year, everyone can come, bid, and win great items!

But of course, the event - the largest fundraiser of Christ Church's year - is only as good as the items on offer, and that's where you come in - we need you to notify us of the details for your item donations by Friday, October 10th - which is only two weeks away, so don't delay! You can either email us at auction@christchurchcolumbia.org or [enter the details directly into the auction software](#) (or scan the QR code in the graphic above, which will direct you there).

Items don't have to be delivered until the end of October.

Lastly, mark your calendars - bidding begins November 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the Great Hall.

Thank you!



Christ Episcopal Church

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office@christchurchcolumbia.org

The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
The Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Associate Rector for Children and Family Ministries*

The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

The Rev. Yehinuel Odidi, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Director of Music Ministry*

Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*

Yetti Lipede, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*

Diya Jackson, *Office & Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*

John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

Vestry

Denisa Abdallah (*Senior Warden*) • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre (*Junior Warden*)

Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) • Ron Couch (*Registrar*) • Shreya Chrzanowski (*Youth Liaison*)

• Ronald Baran • John Curley • Ray Lyon • Greg Schuckman • Alfred Titus-Glover • Jay Abbott • George Toth

• Sara Kirkpatrick • Ed Chrzanowski • Kathy Simms